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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0913

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APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE
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The Honorable Stephen Hahn, Commissioner
Food and Drug Administration

The Honorable Robert R. Redfield, Director
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Dear Commissioner Hahn and Director Redfield,

Thank you for your hard work in the face of the coronavirus outbreak.

As COVID-19 has spread to more than 13 states, infecting over 100 and killing 11 people, the pace and capacity of the public response has never been more important. While state and local health departments are managing quarantines, conducting samples, and disseminating information to the communities they serve, there are only three places in the State of Florida providing screening for COVID-19 as of the writing of this letter. We need more testing locations, and we need private sector providers to be part of the solution.

I am asking that the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) work together to provide:

- a timeline for when CDC-developed test kits will be made available to additional laboratories that can handle infectious disease and the complexity of the COVID-19 test;
- an accounting of the delayed availability of COVID-19 test kits;
- updated guidance giving additional laboratories specific instructions for how to begin testing patients for COVID-19.

Delays in access to testing have caused great public concern and greater mistrust in the eyes of the American people. This is an opportunity to combat those issues, expanding availability of care for the people. Thank you and I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



Charlie Crist
UNITED STATES CONGRESSMAN